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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Dessau-Rosslau Area

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 2 February 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 4 January 1954, the barracks installation in Rosslau quartered about 3,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank, artillery, signal or engineer insignia. For the past few weeks, it has quartered officers' dependents. There was intensive training activity in the billeting area between 15 December and 4 January. Most of the soldiers received close-order drill at group level. The training grounds northeast of the installation and the approach road were enlarged. Soldiers were several times seen at training with 4 AA guns on the Elbe River meadows of the water training site. T-34/85 tanks frequently practiced firing on the water training sites south of Brambach and south of the Flachsfabrik.

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2. On 4 January, the cantonment east of Grosskuehnau quartered a guard detail. Up to the last week in December, soldiers daily practiced with 57-mm AT guns and mortars on the training grounds.
3. Between 15 December and 4 January, 70 residences for officers' dependents had to be vacated in the barracks installation in Kochstedt.
4. On 19 December, the barracks installation in Kochstedt was occupied by 3,500 to 4,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery or tank insignia. About 120 soldiers excavated fire trenches along the border of the woods immediately behind Kochstedt on 14 December and, on 19 December, about 35 sidecar motorcycles were seen engaged in driving practice.

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5. On 19 December, the cantonment east of Grosskuehnau quartered a guard unit of about 50 men.

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6. On 10 January, the cantonment east of Grosskuehnau quartered a guard unit with black-bordered crimson epaulets.

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Comment. Information on the last changes in the barracks installations in the area of Lesau Kochstedt was commented on previously.

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Paragraph 4 of the present report indicates, however, that the 4th Gds Mtrcl Bn from the cantonment east of Grosskuehnau was transferred to the barracks installation in Kochstedt.

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